



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Pride of Place Cities Competition 2011
<b>Date:</b>	13 April 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>The Pride of Place competition has been supported by Belfast City Council for a number of years. For the past two years following committee approval, Community Service Officers have taken the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups.</p> <p>Established in 2003 and hosted by Co-operation Ireland, Pride of Place is an all-Ireland competition which aims to recognise and celebrate the vital contributions that community groups make to society. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. It gives community groups the opportunity to showcase specific pride initiatives, whether social, environmental or heritage-related, which will have long lasting and positive impacts on their society.</p>
1.2	<p>Each year, several categories are defined and entries invited, all entrants must be nominated by their local authority. In previous years entrants nominated and sponsored by Belfast City Council have enjoyed considerable success. Winners are announced at a high-profile awards ceremony hosted by a previous winning council each autumn.</p>
1.3	<p>In 2009 BCC entered 4 groups;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support Project</li><li>- Failte Feirste Thair</li><li>- Wandsworth Community Centre</li><li>- Star Neighbourhood Centre</li></ul>

	<p>The North Belfast Women's Initiative won their Category and Failte Feirste Thair came second in theirs.</p>
1.4	<p>In 2010 BCC entered 4 groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hannahstown Community Association</li> <li>- Forum for Action on Substance Abuse</li> <li>- Artability</li> <li>- Taughmonagh Community Forum</li> </ul> <p>The Forum for Action on Substance Abuse won their category.</p>
1.5	<p>The 2011 awards Ceremony will be held in November at Trim, Co Meath. This year there are two population categories, three single issue categories with designated themes, and the housing estates category. Each City Council may nominate a maximum of 5 categories. It is not permitted to nominate two Pride of Place entries for the same category.</p> <p>The Service have identified four suitable groups who would be suitable to compete strongly on behalf of the City:</p>
1.6	<p><u>Upper Springfield Community Sports Development Unit</u> in the Sport in the Community Category – The aim of this group is to develop an inclusive community sport programme to provide increased opportunities for all to participate in sport and physical activity, at a level of their choice.</p>
1.7	<p><u>Finaghy Crossroads Project</u> in the Community Enhancement Category – This is an inter-community group with the overarching aim of promoting the safety of everyone who lives, works or socialises in the area. The group works to be a catalyst for the promotion, development and support of good relations through the advancement of equality, respect for diversity and opportunity for all. Peace building is an over-arching theme covering all of the work of the group.</p>
1.8	<p><u>Heart Project in the Community Health Initiative</u> - The H.E.A.R.T. Project is based in the Falls ward of Belfast. Their mission is to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of people in the Falls ward by tackling key causes and effects of stress through a sustainable partnership of public agencies, community groups and voluntary organisations"</p>
1.9	<p><u>Donegall Pass Community Forum</u> in the 1-1000 Estate Category - Based in South Belfast, Donegall Pass Community Forum aims to develop the forum as an effective network for community groups and others working for the benefit of the area. It is raising awareness of the needs of the community and working to attract investment and resources to meet those needs.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>The Pride of Place competition is a prestigious all Ireland competition with a high profile throughout the island of Ireland, President Mary McAleese and Stormont ministers both have attended the prize giving.</p>

2.2	<p>All the groups nominated to date have given positive feedback and have experienced tangible benefits from their association with the competition.</p> <p>These include an increased sense of pride, motivation to continue their commitment to provide excellent community facilities and programmes and increased recognition for their interventions from their local community.</p>
-----	---

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The cost per entrant is £500, with a maximum of 6 entrants per council (one per category); 4 suitable entrants will be identified.</p> <p>Should the Members agree to enter the 2011 competition, it is proposed that the Council should pay the entry fees as well as the travel and accommodation expenses relating to the attendance of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Development (or their nominees) and the project officer, together with a maximum of three persons per external project (depending on the number of tickets allocated by Co-operation Ireland), at the awards ceremony.</p> <p>The total cost is estimated at £4,000 including subsistence, travel and accommodation for one night; this would be funded from existing budgets.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p>
5.1	1. Approve the entry of 4 identified groups
5.2	2. Approve the attendance of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the Director of Development (or their nominees) and the project officer, together with a maximum of three persons per external project (maximum twelve in total) at the 2011 awards ceremony and approve the payment of the entrants' fees, travelling, attendance and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>Further to approval</p> <p>Time line: _____ Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart</p>

7	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1: Pride of Place Cities Competition 2011 - Categories	